SPARK GAP

Vol. 41, Issue 12, December 2024 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our M.A.R.C. :

Please join us Saturday morning at 8 am for our December MARC monthly meeting, which will include a pitch-In brunch and a white elephant gift exchange. We meet at the Johnson County REMC building in Franklin. Please bring a dish to share for the pitch-in brunch. Also bring a gift for the White-Elephant gift exchange. Don't feel like you need to spend money, just bring something from the shack you don't need any more. If you choose to purchase a gift, please keep it under $10. We look forward to seeing you Saturday.

Due to next Tuesday being Christmas Eve, and the following Tuesday, New Year's Eve, there will be no WebEx Tech Discussion for the next two weeks. We will pick up again after New Year's Day week.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.

WC9G Tim

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

W9HR --- DOUG CHAPMAN

KQ9Y --- CHRIS FREDERICK

CLUB DUES FOR 2025

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2025.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

Weather Ops-ervations
by KC9NJM

Likely, most of us have heard the traditional holiday song, “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas” more times than we can count. The 1954 movie, *White Christmas* tells the story of a retired army general managing a weather-blighted ski lodge in Pine Tree, Vermont. He needs snow to bring in the guests and things aren’t looking good until Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and a host of others get there. Then, lo and behold, the weather cooperates and just at the appropriate time the perfect snowfall appears complete with a horse-drawn sleigh. I hope I didn’t spoil the ending for anyone!

So, just what constitutes a white Christmas? The National Weather Service says that it is having 1.0” of snow on the ground on Dec. 25th at 7:00 a.m., local time. That last was the case in central Indiana in 2020 when there was 1.6” of leftover snow on the ground from days before due to a flash freeze. In fact, you have to go back to 2005 to find an actual snowfall of any significance, when we received a “walloping” 2.6”. Since records started being kept in 1872 the best that our area has managed on Christmas Day was 5.9” way back in 1909. According to the NWS only 23% of the Christmases since 1872 have had a measurable snowfall and if you throw in the days with trace amounts the best we get is 44%.

So what is the prognosis that those of us in the middle of the state will be seeing a white Christmas in 2024? After analyzing the historical data for the period 1991-2020, AccuWeather is giving Indianapolis only a 1 in 4 probability of achieving that goal. That 20-year snapshot puts things pretty much in line with the past 151 years.

If history repeats itself, it looks like our snow shovels and blowers will not be needed on Christmas Day. I guess that means if we want to see a truly magical snowfall we might have to book a room or pull up a chair at the general’s Columbia Inn. Or will we? You know what they say about Indiana weather, “Just wait…….!”

Happy Holidays!

Sources: NWS Indianapolis, WISH-TV8, AccuWeather, IMDb

ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology Now Accepting Applications for 2025 Cohorts

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology (TI) continues to grow. Fresh off a highly successful YouTube telethon that raised more than $41,000 for the program, some of next year's dates have been announced. Applications are now open.
The program is growing, and educators will have the opportunity to attend sessions around the country. "We love having the teachers here at ARRL Headquarters, but we wanted to bring this program nationwide," said ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA. Dates and details of the regional sessions are still being determined, but the hope is to touch many areas of the United States.

The application process is straightforward. Interested educators can find the web form at www.arrl.org/ti. ARRL covers all the costs of the TI, including travel, but there is a $100 application fee if the teacher is accepted.

The success generated from the program is demonstrable. "The teachers leave TI with energy and knowledge. They've taken that and built tremendous programs in their schools," said Goodgame. The program isn't necessarily designed to get young people licensed, but rather to get them thinking about radio in their other areas of study. Teachers work amateur radio and radio technology into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics lessons. Amateur radio is presented as a pathway to get hands-on with the concepts, and to use them in the real world.

There are 16 cohorts planned for the 2025 ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology. "The growth we're seeing in TI is a result of the teachers' experiences with the program, and the donors who enable it," said Goodgame. The TI is funded entirely by donations to the ARRL Education & Technology Fund. *ARRL News Dec 2024*

Rig For Sale

Xiegu X6100 qrp transceiver covering HF and 50mhz bands. 5w output on internal battery, 10w with external power. Integrated sound card for use with computer for digital modes. Comes with transceiver, Power cable with Anderson Power Pole connector, and hand mic.

Xiegu XPA125B 100W amplifier w/integrated antenna tuner. Includes power cable with Anderson Power Pole connectors, data cable to connect with Xiegu X6100 transceiver, patch cable with UHF to BNC adapter for connection to transceiver.

Both items are being sold together as a set for $800 (firm). Inquiries can be directed to me via email at kyle@ad9cr.com.

Radio Shack Christmas Ad

Radio Shack
Where Americas Santas Shop by Mail
SANTA comes early to Radio Shack with 48 exciting pages of the world's most wanted gift values! You'll find this jumbo holiday shopping guide packed with fascinating, useful, appropriate gifts for everyone on your list. Whether you're shopping for stocking stuffers or Christmas thrills, family style — you'll find Radio Shack's famous value wizardry in every item!
No. 114-A
Holiday BUYING GUIDE
PRICES GUARANTEED UNTIL MARCH 1, 1962
SPECIAL PURCHASE! SAVE ½!
GILBERT OBSERVATORY SET
LOCATE Planets, Stars, Constellations — SCIENTIFICALLY!
$4.99 Comparison Shopped $9.98
Amazing, educational set includes: a textbook to start youngster learning navigation, height of planes, mountains; a constellation finder, accurate slides with illuminator and night compass; star pointer and fully illustrated instruction manual.
#V98LX666, Ship. wt. 4 lbs. $4.99
CHRISTMAS GIFT SPECIAL!
2-TRANSISTOR RADIO with BATTERY
Has Built-In Speaker
$5.66 Orig. $6.95
SAVE $1.29
Specially priced for Christmas giving, this extraordinary 2 transistor radio performs like twice its price! It boasts a large built-in ferrite antenna for amazing reception in metropolitan areas, easy tuning dial, extra large speaker! Complete with battery and earphone. Handy shirt-pocket size: 5x2½x1¼.
#V90L618, Ship. wt. 2 lbs. . . . $5.66
#V95L030, Extra 9v battery. .49
FULLY TRANSISTORIZED TAPE RECORDER
ARCHER
• Erase, Rewinds, Plays Up to 34 Minutes
• Ideal for Students, Writers, Parties, Special Occasions
Complete with Carry Case, Mike, Earphones, Batteries, Tape
$24.95
Radio Shack gift dynamo! Fully transistorized tape recorder records, plays back anywhere, anytime — yet it's priced UNDER 25! Erases automatically, rewinds, plays up to 34 minutes on standard 3" reel of tape. No electric plug-in, it operates on 2 ordinary flashlight batteries. Boasts 3 transistors, built-in PM speaker and amplifier, easily accessible front panel controls. Whisper-weight 2½ lbs. make it conveniently portable for trips, classroom, special occasions. Unbreakable case — 5½ x 9¼ x 2¾".
Order No. V98L490, Ship wt. 3 lbs. $24.95
No. V 91L707 1 Mil Acetate Recording Tape. 225' Wt. ½ lb. 0.49
No. V 92L273, Extra 2" Reel, Wt. ½ lb. 0.15
No. V 34C834, Quick Tape Splicer, Wt. ½ lb. 1.50
Gift Special! GIANT UNBREAKABLE GLOBE
• Nearly 4' in Circumference
• 9 Exciting Colors
• Desk Swivel Stand
$6.99
The gift that makes far away places come alive and provides hours of enjoyment for all ages! This is the first globe ever produced in gravure for consistency of color and balance. Gives physical relief effect! Designed and executed by top cartographic experts in lightweight, unbreakable polyvinyl . . . it's completely UP TO DATE, countries, mountains, oceans, etc. Can be marked with wax pencil. At this down-to-earth Radio Shack price you'll want one for each room, den or office . . . for all the special people on your holiday gift list.
No. V98LX449, Ship. wt. 2 lbs. $6.99
Christmas Shop with our new... REVOLVING CHARGE ACCOUNT NO MONEY DOWN
RADIO SHACK CORPORATION
BOSTON 17, MASSACHUSETTS

WINTER FIELD DAY 2025

JANUARY 25 – 26, 2025

WFD is always on the last full weekend of January, beginning at 19:00 UTC on Saturday and running though 18:59 on Sunday.

You can operate on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands and all bands above 50 MHz.

To be considered for scoring, all participants must submit their log entries before 11:59 UTC on March 1st . All logs must be submitted in the Cabrillo formation and contain the proper exchange data. Late entries cannot be accepted.

WFD participation and results are tallied and posted on the website for future reference. Our goal is to logs scored by May 30th and posted the first week of June.

For more information about Winter Field Day 2025 check out their web site:
https://winterfieldday.org/

Please check the MARC web page for more details www.midstatehams.org

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.